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The Alliston & District Humane Society News is a bi-annual newsletter.
Editor: Jane Clarke info@allistonhumane.com 705-458-9038.



When I look into the eyes
of an animal I do not see an
animal. I see a living being.
I see a friend. I see a soul.

~Anthony Douglas Williams



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Let's talk squirrels. They get in our birdfeeders. They get in our attics, and most people regard them as a nuisance. These furry little rodents, sometimes affectionately referred to as tree rats, aren't really the huge pain in the butt that we may think they are. They are just misunderstood. So, in the spirit of broad animal acceptance, this article is designed to shed some light on our little pals.



The squirrels we most commonly see around here are known as Eastern Grey Squirrels. So those are the grey ones, right? Well, half right. The black squirrels that we tend to see most often are actually the same species, *Sciurus carolinensis*. These cute fuzzy little guys are opportunistic foragers, generally looking for whatever is easy to find during the season. In spring, this includes the buds of hardwood trees, particularly maple. In the summer, they look for maple and elm seeds, along with assorted fruits and berries. In the autumn, they look for nuts like acorns, hickory nuts, walnuts, and beech nuts (<http://cwf-fcf.org>). They're actually pretty respectful when it comes to digging up our lawns; if you watch them, you'll see them bury a nut and gently cover it up and pack the ground back down. You can barely even tell they have done anything at all! They can end up burying hundreds of nuts to recover later in the winter. They find them using carefully crafted maps that they keep in their nests. Ok, that isn't really true... I have no idea how they remember where all those nuts are!

Though they seem to take their time doing things, Eastern Grey Squirrels can actually zip around at 25 km/h! They also have two breeding seasons; one in January and February, and the next in June and July. Show a little respect for our friends that have two litters a year! Red squirrels are smaller, and their coat changes colour through the year. These ones are usually the guys that get into attics and cause a little strife. They are just looking for a cozy place to set up a home!

Regardless of species, there are some things we can do to help our friends, and ourselves. If you want them to stay out of your birdfeeder, try tossing some peanuts to them. If you do it around the same time every day, they get used to it and wait for the good stuff! We can also build squirrels boxes. It is easy to find simple plans for these online, and they provide a great nesting space for them, which can help keep them out of your house. Boxes also help keep them safe! Though they are a little skittish, with some time and patience, you can have them literally eating out of your hand. Like any animal, you can build trust with them. And I promise, if you take the time to build that relationship with them, you will see them in a whole different light. Jeremy Nagy



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All membership fees go directly to the care of the animals. An individual membership is \$25 dollars and a family membership is \$35 dollars. A junior/senior membership is \$20. Go to www.allistonhumane.com to complete an electronic membership form and pay via PayPal, Canadahelps.org or print the form, complete and mail in or drop off at the shelter. We could not help all the animals we help each day without your continued support. Thank you!

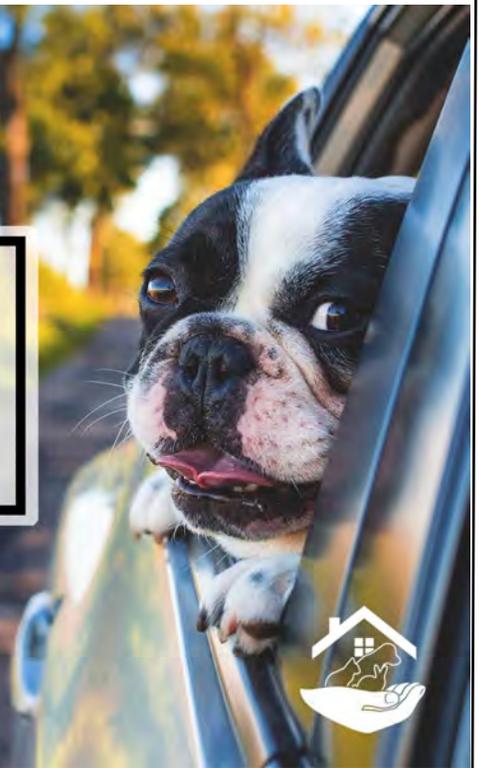
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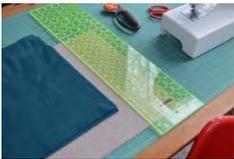
Guinea Pigs enjoy lazy days filled with naps and snacks. Some piggys are nervous and need comfort to feel safe. One way to satisfy both these needs is to provide a warm, soft and cozy place for your piggy friend to relax. A cuddle cup or piggy pouch is a great way to help. Cuddle cups can be bought at a store or made in a variety of fun colors and with silly prints. Here is a DIY for a fleece piggy pouch

Materials:

Fleece, 1-2 colors (I used 2) ``no pill`` is best. But you can use Dollar Store fleece blankets
Sewing machine, scissors, thread, ruler, a cutting matt and a cutting tool

Instructions:

From both fabrics cut 2- 15``x 16`` rectangles.



With right sides facing, sew 2 fabric pieces together along 3 sides, leaving one end open. Repeat for second color.

Turn one pouch right side out and tuck into other pouch (still inside out) so right sides are facing.



Sew around raw edges joining one color to the next. Leave an opening for turning



Turn pouch right side out by gently pulling fabric through the opening you left. Re-tuck into each other.

Crystal Roth



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CANINE HYDROTHERAPY AND WELLNESS CENTRE

Volunteer Corner

This is the ninth in a series of articles about volunteers that help make our organization run.

Jaclyn Nelson: Matchmaker Extraordinaire



Jaclyn Nelson began at ADHS as a dog walker more than five years ago, during her move to the Alliston area and while searching for a new job. She has never looked back, finding a passion and “capacity for compassion I never knew I had” in her work with ADHS animals.

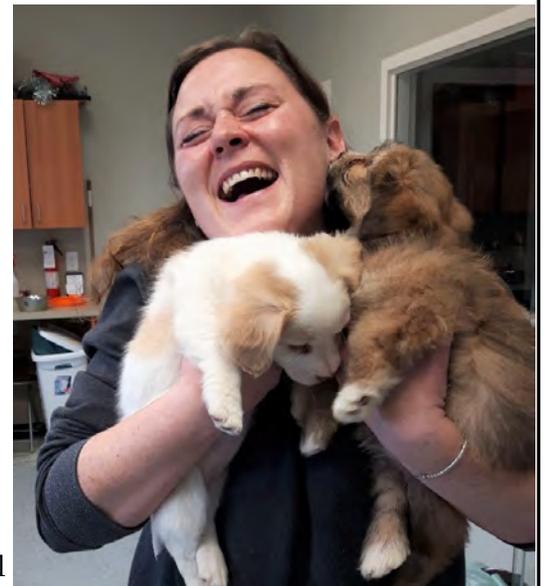
Jaclyn is one of our dog adoption coordinators. She spends dozens and dozens of hours per week answering emails and dog adoption applications, talking with prospective families, setting up and showing dogs and waving goodbye as they find their new homes. ADHS receives many, many applications for every desirable dog in our kennels and it's Jaclyn's job to find the perfect family for every dog, including those with special needs. She is looking for new homes that are fully committed and have taken the time to research what is involved with canine ownership. She looks for prior experience with dogs and the breed

involved, as well as suitability and temperament of the dog for a family. High energy dogs, for example, cannot be adopted to a condo living situation while high flight risk dogs need a fenced yard. Jaclyn spends hours talking with families, setting up and supervising “meet and greets” and is on hand for the final joyful exit of dogs to new families. The only item on her wish list is more consideration of her time. After spending up to 15 hours a week reading applications and setting up appointments, it is disappointing to have families not show up or fail to notify her of changes. She takes great satisfaction, however, in seeing dogs placed in loving homes and looks forward to the photos and updates that come back to her.

Jaclyn takes great pride in the fact that ADHS dogs are well cared for and carefully placed in homes where they will be successful. These dogs find a new life, rather than languishing on the streets, in bad homes or in kill shelters. One of her pet peeves is the weakness of Ontario's animal cruelty laws and the situations where little can be done to help a neglected animal. On her wish list for the shelter, is a huge dog play park, to provide fun, exercise and human interaction for our canine guests.

When Jaclyn is not showing dogs, she is running dogs to the vet, learning about medication and vet processes, and helping with large fundraising events like our Raise the Woof and the annual Walkadogathon. She is taking on new things as well, learning how ADHS canine control works and debuting as a writer for this newsletter in this issue.

While Jaclyn knows “I can't save them all”, she has taken on two special needs dogs. Ruby, a senior who was a toothless and emaciated when she came to ADHS and Penny a high strung cocker spaniel mix who failed at her first adoption. Check out Jaclyn's article on page 11 about her dog Ruby and learn what it takes to care for special needs animals.



ADHS Is Bursting At the Seams!

The Alliston & District Humane Society isn't what is used to be! Let me explain. ADHS had its humble beginnings more than 30 years ago. At that time, the organization operated out of a network of foster homes, supported by dedicated, community minded volunteers and devout animal lovers. This network provided a safe haven for lost, abused and neglected animals that would otherwise have been left to fend on their own. Over time, ADHS became officially incorporated in 1988 and from there the need for something more permanent was envisioned. This was finally realized in 2010 when a new 3600 square foot shelter was built on our current site.

There's a saying from a famous movie.... "Build it and they will come". Nothing could be truer for this shelter. We now house close to 100 animals on any given day. We operate 24/7, 365 days a year with more than 140 dedicated and reliable volunteers and we are proud to say we are a 'no kill' shelter. With very few exceptions, we are able to find all our animals new loving forever homes.

Our animals are well cared for during their stay with us and are medically checked and treated to ensure their optimum health.

Our reputation as a caring and 'no kill' shelter has spread to the point that we are being asked to take animals from far beyond our normal boundaries. The result of this is that we are seeing much more demand than we have space to accommodate. Plus, we want to improve all the time. For example, we have converted one of our cat rooms which traditionally held cages, to a free roaming room where cats are free to wander and interact with other cats without being caged. We have lots of plans and ideas to make things better, and we hope that sometime in the near future we will be looking at an expansion. We are confident that, as in the past, the community will join with us and support us in this endeavour and in our efforts to ensure the best care for abandoned companion animals within our community. It takes a village.....

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Cash is always welcome at our shelter open houses or in the many donation boxes around our community. You can also contribute by volunteering, providing a foster home, running or contributing to a fundraising event and donating items listed on our wish list available at allistonhumane.com. ADHS also needs administration, maintenance, and cleaning volunteers.



Please help ADHS reduce the number of unwanted and abandoned animals in our communities.

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Let's Talk about Leashes

Spring is in the air so what better time to re-introduce your dog to a new (warmer) walking schedule. Of course, there are a couple of things to remember when walking your dog though. The first one is picking up the poop and disposing of it in a garbage bin. The second is keep your dog on a leash. Thirdly, have fun! This piece is about the importance of keeping your dog on a leash.

Owning a dog is a lot of responsibility and one of those responsibilities is adhering to municipal by-laws. Aside from being a legal requirement to have your dog on a leash in public areas, other people and dogs in these public areas need to be considered as well. It's great that your dog is well trained to be off-leash and not run away, and sociable enough to run up and make new friends while off-leash. Please keep in mind how your charging dog may affect others. It's also great that your dog won't hurt another dog, just wants to play, or loves people, but it's difficult to take a stranger's word for it especially in an unsettling situation. Chances are the person with the leashed dog isn't listening to how great your dog is because he or she is too concerned about the safety and well-being of his or her leashed dog. Below is a brief list of why dogs (and people) don't need a meeting with a strange, off-leash dog in a public area:

My leashed dog doesn't like other dogs. Plain and simple.

My leashed dog is recovering from surgery/illness and doesn't need to be excited (whether good or bad).

My leashed dog is a generally nervous dog and doesn't need the stress of a strange dog interaction on his walk. (If you have a nervous dog, it's a good idea to practise avoidance on walks so he/she does not have to interact or pass directly by another dog – this is tricky with an off-leash dog barreling towards you though.)

My leashed dog has just been adopted/rescued and I want to keep interactions to a minimum for a smooth transition as his/her past is unknown.

My leashed dog is working on his/her training and doesn't need to be interrupted.

I don't have a dog because I am terrified of them. I don't need to be scared of an off-leashed dog in a public place.

As you can see, it's all about how your off-leash dog in a public place affects leashed dogs and their handlers trying to enjoy their walks. Please be respectful of others, their space, and their leashed dogs. Leash your dogs. The world belongs to everyone.

Jaelyn Nelson

To find out more about Dog Laws and Canine Control in your area, check out your township's website. Also visit [Dog Owners' Liability Act \(DOLA\)](#), RSO 1990, c. D. 16



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All donations over \$20 are eligible for a charitable donation receipt. Thank You!

Monarch Butterfly Education at ADHS

On a late sunny afternoon in August of 2018, five very excited primary students gathered at the ADHS shelter to learn about monarch butterflies and watch a butterfly release.

Victoria Copeland, an Alliston area resident, is an avid monarch enthusiast and has been raising monarchs and releasing them for 25 years. She hikes local trails, finds monarchs at the egg stage, raises them and releases them at maturity. Since monarchs are a threatened species, Ms Copeland obtains an Ontario permit and follows all the current protocols for this process. This has become a personal passion, and Ms. Copeland releases anywhere from 800-1000 monarchs every year. She also uses this pursuit for education, often bringing in butterflies to Peel Region classrooms.

The ones released at the shelter in late August are fall migrant butterflies who fly south as they are not able to survive winters in North America. Milkweed, the plant the caterpillar feeds on, is not available to them in the winter. So every fall, in early October, huge clouds of monarch butterflies make the 4000 km trek south where they live in a state of diapause for 4 to 5 months. Then, in February or March, the entire cycle starts all over again.

Most Monarchs spend the winter in Mexico where they have the uncanny ability to find the same Oyamel forests where generations before them spent their winters. If Monarchs live west of the Rockies, they migrate to Pacific Grove, California where they hibernate in eucalyptus trees. The monarch butterfly is one of a few known insects that migrates to warmer climates.

32 Monarch butterflies were released at the shelter on a beautiful sunny August afternoon. All of the butterflies had tracking tags which can be used to pinpoint location and migration patterns. Their grandchildren will return to the shelter next year and lay their eggs there!

The primary students paid rapt attention as Ms Copeland taught them about butterflies and then did the release. After this excitement, they ended their trip with a tour of the ADHS shelter.

For more information about Monarch education, conservation and research see monarchwatch.com and www.saveourmonarchs.org.



It's Never Too Late for the Good Life

One thing I need to do before entering the shelter is check my emotions at the door. It appears I forgot to do that the evening of June 29th, 2018. I knew ADHS had a small white dog as an intake and I had offered to potentially foster her upon a successful meeting, as I can only foster the small dogs. I walked in and once I laid eyes on her, tears started rolling down my cheeks. She was a tiny 5 lb girl, shaved down that morning due to all the mats. She was blind, emaciated, covered in scabs and sores, and had one lonely tooth. She was found half submerged in a river. No one came to claim her. The vet estimated her to be between 10 and 12 years old due to the severity of her glaucoma and the condition of her one tooth.



This was too much. How on earth was I supposed to bring her home with my 2 dogs and keep her safe? I have no experience with blind dogs, nor with dogs who have been through such trauma. I wasn't going to leave her there so I had to figure it out and fast. I picked her up the next morning, not sure whether I was up for this. I was nervous. I've brought fosters home before but this was different. My dogs sniffed her and seemed a little puzzled but let her be. For the first few days, she would only sleep for 10 to 20 minutes at a time and wake up scream-barking. That's the only way I can describe it.



She eventually learned that she was safe. She could follow my voice to find comfort and she realized that she would be fed on a regular basis. My 8 year old pug, Duke, glued himself to her instantly. He would watch her sleep, walk with her so she wouldn't bump into things, and spoon her while they slept. He unexpectedly took on the role of her guide dog. While fostering, Ruby was diagnosed with liver failure. Her liver counts kept increasing over time. She also had cataracts on top of her glaucoma. She requires eye drops everyday and a liver supplement. She needs to have her eye pressure checked at regular intervals.

Despite it all, I decided to adopt. No one was going to love this little girl as much as me (or Duke). She has gained 1 pound, eats and does her business normally, loves her naps, and has more outfits than I do. She enjoys car rides and sniffing the warm breeze blowing in her face. She isn't too fond of the colder weather. Her fur has grown in wildly.

It's been my decision to opt out of ultrasounds, x-rays, MRIs, and further blood-work. She is too frail for these procedures and they would only scare her because she's unable to see what's happening. At this point it would cause more harm than good. I know her time is limited and the best I can do is keep her happy. She is so comfortable. And pretty adventurous. And a little spoiled. Her name is Ruby. Sadly, Duke passed away from a stroke at age 9 at the beginning of October. I believe Duke knows that Ruby will need someone to guide her over the bridge when her time comes. Who better than her very own keeper.

Jaclyn Nelson

Postscript: Shortly after this was written, Ruby passed away with Jaclyn by her side.

!OPEN HOUSE!

Please join us the 2nd and 4th Saturday of every month for our Open House from noon to four pm at the shelter. Come and visit all the animals and meet our great volunteers, and drop off donations. One of our recent visitors sent us a lovely commendation:

“What a great place! I left with a smile on my face. Thank you all for working to make this wonderful organization. Everyone benefits from your hard work and enthusiasm. I became inspired, on such a dreary day, and I will be sure to pass on word about your shelter to others too.”



Luna



Stella

Stella and Luna are beautiful bonded sisters, 2 years old, who must be adopted together. Stella is more outgoing than her sister Luna, but these are confident and friendly girls who deserve a loving home together.

Adoption Corner

Call (705) 458-9038 or info@allistonhumane.com

The ADHS is a registered charity. All board members, volunteers and foster homes are unpaid. All funds raised pay for the current services and future programs. All cats and dogs over six months of age are spayed/neutered, vaccinated and dewormed. All kittens under the age of 6 months come with vouchers that allow owners to take the kitten to a local vet for vaccinations, rabies and spay or neuter. All rabbits are spayed or neutered.

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